THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The rustle of the buses occurs only when they are running and I thought generally these whistles were blown at a time when the buses were stopped. So, generally they will only give the whistle when they want just to start. The stopping places are already notified.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Government issue instructions that bells only should be used and that whistles should not be used?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It is not possible because the bells may go out order occasionally and if we issue an instruction like that, then the buses will not be stopped.

Ban on export of paddy

* 113 *Q*.—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the State Government have made a representation to the Central Government for ban on export of rice from this State to Kerala State particularly from the Tanjore district; and

(*b*) if so, the decision taken by the Central Government thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) This Government addressed the Government of India to ban the movement of paddy (and not rice) from this State to any place outside the State.

(*b*) The Government of India have since issued the Madras Paddy (Export Control) Order, 1959, banning the export of paddy outside this State *except* on permits issued by this Government.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : What were the factors and circumstances which made the State Government represent to the Central Government to impose a ban of this kind?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : This Government found that a Price Control Order had not been issued in Kerala. Taking advantage of the absence of control and the prevalence of high prices, there was a large movement not only of rice but also of paddy from the Tanjore district and other areas to Kerala, and if it was rice, it could be at least checked and controlled, because the Control Order, so far as this State was concerned, was in force. Therefore, the stock could be checked with the millers and then the producers. But if paddy was transported, from the producer it got straight into lorries and other vehicles and it was reported that it was transported on a large scale. Therefore, the Government felt that this movement of paddy should be controlled and they put it to the Government of India that there should be a ban on export except on permits. The Government of India have agreed to it.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I know whether the export was mainly from the Tanjore district or also from other districts in the State?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : According to the information that this Government have, it was mainly exported from Tanjore, but there were movements from South Arcot and other districts also.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be in a position to give us an idea of the approximate number of tons that would have been exported till the date on which the Government of Madras were appraised of the serious situation of the paddy being exported to Kerala and other places and the date on which the notification banning the export of paddy was issued?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I am afraid even approximately I cannot give a fairly accurate figure. The reports vary and my own estimate is that about 25,000 tons have been exported.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I know whether the heavy export took place from our State to Kerala in order to circumvent the possible announcement of the Government that they wanted to purchase two lakhs of tons of rice in the open market?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It is not merely a question of the Government decision to purchase two lakhs of tons of rice. The Government had issued an order fixing the maximum price for various varieties of paddy and rice, whether they were purchased by the Government or others. The Government Order insisted that nobody should sell paddy or rice beyond the price that was fixed. Therefore, whether it was the producer or the merchant, he did seek to evade this order because he could sell paddy or rice in Kerala at a higher price.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : If I remember aright, the Hon. the Minister for Home said, during the debate on a previous occasion, that a particular variety of rice, kuruvai, produced in the district of Tanjore could not be sold locally and could only be exported to Kerala. If so, could not the Madras Government come to some arrangement with the Kerala Government that they would purchase rice on their behalf and send it to them on a Government to Government basis?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : For a considerable time, I have been putting it to the Kerala Government. On the 6th of this month I met the Kerala Chief Minister in Madurai. Then I put this to him and I made a standing offer that we could supply to Kerala not less than 1½ lakhs of tons of rice if the merchants could be made to desist from entering into transactions for the purpose of movement to Kerala.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Is the Hon. Minister sure that the bulk of the paddy which was purchased has already left our State, or is it still with the people to be sold at higher prices when the time comes?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Whatever has moved to Kerala, we cannot do anything about it. But so far as the stock that is still there within the limits of this State is concerned, the Government have got powers, and they do propose to exercise those powers, if necessary, to requisition stocks if they could not move the producers. Even if the merchants would hoard them or would not sell them, the Government have got powers and they will exercise those powers to requisition such stocks at the maximum controlled price.

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR: Sir, is it a fact that the prices in Kerala are lower than in Madras because of the transport of rice?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: To-day I have received a representation from the President of the Planters' Association of Madras that they could not get rice at controlled rates within the Madras State for purposes of supplying it to workers and that on the other hand, they can get rice at a higher price in Kerala but that still, under our orders, they could not purchase rice at a higher price. And that was the difficulty they expressed to me. 3-10 p.m.

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI: Sir, if it is an offence to sell rice at a price above the one fixed by the Government, will the Government consider the question of booking those people who sold rice at a higher rate than the controlled one? If it is an offence, why not we look into the matter and chase those people?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: If we could trace such offences, we would not have asked the Government of India to issue this ban order. As I pointed out, the movement of paddy straightway from the producer through the lorries could not be checked and traced. Therefore, we wanted this ban order to issue.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: While appreciating the action of the Government of India in readily acceding to the demand of the Madras Government for the imposition of a ban of this type, may I ask whether our Government have also represented to the Central Government that in spite of our being in the Southern Zone, no movement of rice, especially Nellore rice, takes place from the Andhra State to this State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Yes, Sir. In addition to putting this up to the Government of India, I have suggested to them that out of their purchase of Nellore rice, they should hand over to us rice in exchange for the lower variety of rice, which we have in stock.

Departmental Magazine

* 114 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any departmental magazine is published by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Administration) Department;